MI-MIXED BLOOD...
SO YOU'RE REALLY HALF TAIWANESE, HALF JAPANESE?!
DOES MY DAD KNOW?!
WOULD YOU GET OVER IT? I ALREADY TOLD YOU.
HE DOES! AFTER ALL, HE WAS THERE WHEN EVERYTHING GOT SETTLED AROUND MY CONTRACT WHICH INCLUDES THE ISSUES AROUND MY NAME
THAT HOUSEHOLD... THEY ONLY CARE ABOUT THINGS LIKE STATUS, POSITION AND LINEAGE.
THEY'LL DO ANYTHING TO PREVENT LOSING FACE!

Vol. 33 Parents

OH RIGHT! LET'S MOVE YOUR LUGGAGE TO YOUR ROOMS.
THERE'S NOT A LOT OF SPACE, SO MAYBE SHENG YE CAN SLEEP IN THE GUEST ROOM.
AND XIAO YI IN THE ROOM WITH ME?
SHE'LL BE SLEEPING WITH M-
SURE! I'D LOVE TO SHARE A ROOM WITH YOU, BIG SISTER!

My father...
A child with mixed origins...
In Mom's eyes he was just some unemployed guy.
When I turned eight, they separated.
Only then did I learn about Dad's illustrious background, and that so-called household...
They didn't reject us, but ignored us instead, as to underline our insignificance!
It was obvious that they'd surrounded themselves with invisible walls...
It's over here. You can put your bag wherever you'd like
If that's how they want to be, who are we to stop them?!
SHENG YE DON'T BLAME THEM. THEY'RE LIKE THAT BECAUSE THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND WHO YOU ARE.
SO WHY DO THE KIDS HERE CALL ME 'KONKETSUJI' AND TELL ME TO KEEP MY DISTANCE?
BACK AT SCHOOL WE ALL USED TO PLAY TOGETHER...
I WANT TO GO BACK TO MY HOUSE AND SCHOOL IN FUKUOKA!
IT'S NOT LIKE I LIKE THEM, ANYWAY!
NO MATTER WHAT YOU GET TO SEE FROM NOW ON, TAKE IT AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN.
STATUS IS A PREJUDICE CREATED BY ADULTS. IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THEM.
*Konketsuji means child of mixed blood

HM?
I'LL BE MAKING DINNER SOON, IS THERE ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO EAT?
ANYTHING GOES
A way to learn to empathize with others...
SHENG YE?
REALLY
Whoa, this looks amazing!

CHEERFUL
And it tastes great, too! It's been too long since I last had homemade food~
If you like it, do have some more! Sheng Ye, what about you?
MHM
Did it just get colder in here...?
Chew Chew
Uhm
THE MAIN HOUSE REALLY TAUGHT YOU WELL
I'M NOT USED TO TALKING WHILE EATING
HEY, DON'T BE SO QUIET! WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE TRYING TO MAINTAIN THE MOOD?
In reality, it was brutal.

!
Shi Ling Er was finally found and dragged into the house.
And coerced into meeting the elder of the main house.
TAP
TAP
Even though Mu Wei Chen, the household never approved of her.
THAT'S QUITE ENOUGH, SHENG YE. YOU NEEDN'T EXHIBIT SUCH BAD MANNERS.
Shi Ling Er didn't want to be bothered by them.
HIT
LET GO OF ME, YOU JERKS!
WANT TO GO HOME! I WANT TO GO HOME!
KICK
Compared to us, there were other matters they considered much more important.
FROM TODAY ONWARD YOU ARE TO REMAIN AT THE MAIN HOUSE.
AND DEVOTE YOUR TIME TO STUDYING IN ORDER TO BECOME THE HEIR
Shi Ling Er was unaware of the business transactions happening in Shi's household.
Transcendence

THERE IS NO NEED FOR YOU TO RETURN TO YOUR MOTHER'S SIDE ANY LONGER
grandmother
They took unwedding care of me and I married into the family.
After that, I never got to go back to my mom's house.
That household conceals too many secrets...
DID YOU MANAGE TO GET USED TO LIFE AROUND THERE? IS GRANDMOTHER TREATING YOU WELL?
LET ME GO! I WANNA GO HOME!
BA
YES, THERE'S NO NEED FOR CONCERN
Mom had changed. She didn't show it very often.
I WANNA GO HOME!
WON'T YOU SMILE FOR ME? IT'S BEEN FOREVER SINCE MOM LAST SAW YOUR BRIGHT SMILE!
After a very long time, I was reunited with my mother once. According to grandma,
the while, had much on their minds, so I wouldn't be allowed to make demands or be willful.

YES, MOTHER.
I had told Mom I wanted to go home with her she d put in difficult tuation
That's why I smiled.
So she could be at ease. So why...
Why...
are you crying...?
I'M SO SORRY, SHENG YE...

Father, would I look with such cold eyes—
MOTHER, IS IT IN YOUR POWER TO TAKE SOMEONE AWAY? WITHOUT MY PERMISSION—
DON'T EVEN THINK OF MAKING ANYONE LEAVE!
Father, I'm a child disappointing gradually. Hatred, even shadows, everything. I'm not ordinary. I'm not outstanding. I'm not perfect. But
the others without a single day of remorse...
HAVE YOU TRULY NEVER CONSIDERED MEETING HIM AGAIN?
HUH? WHOM...?
FATHER!
.....
THAT WOULD BE UNNECESSARY, WOULDN'T IT?
Transcendence

WE DIVORCED, AFTER ALL.
OH, SHENG YE, HOW LONG WILL YOU BE STAYING HERE?
WE'RE GOING BACK TOMORROW MORNING
JUST TODAY!
EXTREME COLD
Was it something I said?
Sheng Ye
Deep inside he still hopes his parents will make up someday
FINISH YOUR MEAL
WHAT?! BUT SHENG YE, YOU-

DIDN'T YOU ASK MY DAD FOR A THREE-DAY LEAVE?
YET NOW YOU WANT TO GO BACK TOMORROW?! WHAT DID YOU EVEN COME HERE FOR?!
I DID ALL THE TALKING!
YOU SPOKE TO YOUR MOM EVEN LESS THAN ME.
WHAT'S WITH YOU?!
IF I BLAMED HER, I WOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE!
IT MUST'VE BEEN HARD ON YOUR MOTHER TO LEAVE, TOO...
DO YOU STILL BLAME YOUR MOTHER, PERHAPS...?
WE'VE BEEN HERE FOR A WHILE NOW YET I HAVEN'T HEARD YOU CALL BIG SISTER 'MOM' EVEN ONCE...
BUT YOU SEEMED SO...
I COULD SEE WHY YOUR JAPANESE RELATIVES HAVE SUCH DEEP-ROOTED TRADITIONS,
IT CAN'T BE EASY FOR A FOREIGNER TO BLEND IN...
AND DURING THAT TIME WE NEVER MET UP, NEVER GOT IN TOUCH, NOT EVEN ONCE...
WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO DO SO? WE WERE SEPARATED FOR OVER NINE YEARS...

He's been alone for so long... is that why he got used to being on his own?
I'M AT THE AGE WHERE YOU DON'T NECESSARILY NEED YOUR MOTHER ANYMORE, ANYWAY...
SEEING HER WELL IS ENOUGH FOR ME.
YOU SAID IT YOURSELF, IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE YOU TWO LAST SAW EACH OTHER. YET NOW THAT YOU FINALLY HAVE THE CHANCE TO REUNITE,
YOU'RE JUST GOING TO WASTE YOUR TIME ACTING LIKE A VICTIM, ESTRANGING YOURSELF?!
WE'RE LEAVING TOMORROW, SO LET ME SLEEP!
ARE YOU SERIOUS?! IT'S BARELY NINE, WHO COULD SLEEP NOW?!
Pull
WHOA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
FWUMP
AS IF!
I'D LIKE TO GET SOME SLEEP, WOULD YOU GET OUT?
WHAT?!
IN THAT CASE, LET'S SLEEP TOGETHER!

TALKING ABOUT SUCH SERIOUS THINGS RUINS THE MOOD! ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT IS...YOU KNOW?
YOU KEEP FORGETTING ABOUT WHAT I TOLD YOU... WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
REALLY, ARE YOU JUST TESTING MY PATIENCE?
What...?
!
WAHH! STOP, STOP! ARE YOU CRAZY?!
DID YOU FORGET WHERE WE ARE RIGHT NOW?!
PANT
PANT
TSK
JUST SLEEP HERE!
CLING
CLING
SLEEP BY YOURSELF!
POUND
Huh?
H-H-HEY... WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

I FINALLY GOT TO HUG YOU, SO I MIGHT AS WELL USE THE SITUATION TO MY ADVANTAGE. WHY ARE YOU WEARING SO MANY CLOTHES?
USE THE SITUATION TO YOUR ADVANTAGE? IN YOUR DREAMS!
You pervert! I always resisting advance!
FONDLE
FONDLE
Nobody would look at him, no matter how loudly he cried or yell d...?
ONCE HE ENTERED THE MAIN HOUSE, HE REALLY HAD TO GET USED TO BEING ALONE.
HIS FATHER WAS SO STRICT. I ALWAYS ENDED UP SLEEPING TOGETHER WITH HIM.
SHENG YE JUST LOVES TO ACT SPOILED.
What's with him and his desire to use people as human pillows?
BIG SISTER?!
I WAS ALREADY WONDERING WHETHER I'D HAVE TO GO IN AND STOP YOU
THANK GOODNESS THE LAMB WASN'T EATEN BY THE WOLF

IN JAPAN, IT GETS VERY COLD DURING WINTER...
In that large room, on a cotton covered futon bed...
No matter how many blankets you were to pile on, the cold could still be felt...
ONCE THE SNOW STARTS TO FALL, IT CAN GET TRULY FRIGID,
WHICH IS PROBABLY WHEN HE STARTED HOLDING ON TO THINGS TO TRY AND FEEL WARMER
If only I hadn't known the warmth of someone's embrace...
but my discouraged heart
I wouldn't have experienced that freezing cold that's eating into the bones. Haven't I only known that kind of cold?
I thought he was just teasing me...
I never knew...
THANKFULLY, HE HAS PEOPLE WHOM HE CAN RELY ON NOW
THE ONLY PERSON YOU CAN CHANGE IS YOURSELF IF HE COULD JUST BECOME A LITTLE STRONGER THAT WOULD BE ENOUGH
I'M ALREADY SATISFIED, HAVING BEEN ABLE TO MEET SHENG YE AGAIN...
MANY THINGS CAN'T AND SHOULDN'T BE FORCED.
JEEZ!
Sheng Ye You jerk.
The Japanese have very dismissive views on that!
THERE ARE CASES WHERE THERE'S A LINE YOU CAN'T CROSS, THOUGH!
I DON'T REGRET MY CHOICE TO LEAVE, I JUST WISH...
AND CAN'T GET USED TO HOW SOME BEAT AROUND THE BUSH TO FIND AN ANSWER
HE'S VERY SENSITIVE, WHICH IS WHY HE CARES TOO MUCH ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE'S THOUGHTS AND COMMENTS,
I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU, THOUGH! I, AS WELL, REALLY WISH OUR RELATIONSHIP COULD BE RESTORED
I REALLY PUSHED IT TOO FAR, THOUGH... I WASN'T THINKING I SHOULD'VE KNOWN SHENG YE'S FEELINGS NEED TIME TO ADJUST

I HAD STAYED BY HIS SIDE A FEW MORE YEARS...
Transcendence

GRANDMA, DO YOU DISLIKE MY MOM?
They wouldn't even dare disregard this!
But Mom... doesn't have anything.
BUT SEEING HOW YOU WILL SUCCEED YOUR FATHER IN THE FUTURE, MY HEART WOULD BE RESTLESS IF SHE WERE THE ONE IN CHARGE OF YOUR EDUCATION
WOULD YOUR MOTHER'S BACKGROUND IS STAINLESS IT IS TRULY PITIFUL.
In grandma's eyes, Mom doesn't have a say in anything.
BUT SEEMS TO BE UNABLE TO DO SO
MOM SHOWS THE DESIRE TO RETURN TO TAIWAN.
What the Chiu's dignitaries wanted was the support of another distinguished family.
The sparrow, not caring dad's deep love...
THEY HAD A QUARREL AT THE COMPANY
The gentle mother who loved to smile stopped doing so...
Like I'm working thinking that, as time passed by, there would come a day when we could go back...
WITHOUT WHICH SHE CAN'T RETURN
DAD POSSESSES SOME OF HER DOCUMENTS

I wish it had always been like this, the three of us together...
That was always a comfortable distance
I CAN SUPPORT YOU
YOU ARE A TRULY CLEVER CHILD I AM CERTAIN THERE EXISTS A WAY TO AID YOUR MOTHER
I was the one who first let go of the only person I could depend on
THANK YOU... RANDOM...

and now, there's no way of going back...

I'LL WALK YOU TWO TO THE CAB STATION!
SILENCE
Had one is sealed shut,
and the other is walking on eggshells out of guilt...
what can I do...
What should I do...?
...to have a lot on my mind?
But what...?
Transcendent
"SICK?!"
"I-BE SICK?"
I... MY STOMACH IS A LITTLE... UPSET. I FEEL LIKE I'M GOING TO BE SICK
Should we take the cab straight to the hospital?
.....
WHAT HAPPENED? ARE YOU NOT FEELING WELL?
OH NO, XIAO YI, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

HOW COULD YOU...
YOU'RE NO DIFFERENT FROM YOUR FATHER! HOW COULD YOU STOOP SO LOW?!
SLAP
I NEVER DID ANYTHING BUT KISS HER, SO HOW'S THAT EVEN POSSIBLE?!
You're telling me...
SHE'S ONLY SIXTEEN! HOW COULD YOU... COULD YOU MAKE HER HAVE...
HAVE A BABY?!
EVEN IF I DID WANT TO DO IT, IF I DO AS MUCH AS TOUCH HER, SHE'LL START YELLING. IT MAKES MY EARS RING!
WAHH! SHUT UP, SHUT UP! SHUT THAT BIG MOUTH OF YOURS!
Pound Pound
HEY YOU WEREN'T YOU FEELING SICK?
Huh?!
Ugh! it hurts
PFFT!
Xiao Yi, you Ahahaha!

Once, I had to look up to see her face
No, I was just overthinking it...
It made a turn for the worse...
I'm sorry...
I ACTUALLY WANTED YOU TO STAY
but now... I'm so tall, I'm looking down on her
!
IF YOU HAD STAYED,
I WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FIND A SOLUTION, I DID HAVE THAT MUCH INFLUENCE...
Transcendence
YOUR AIRPLANE TICKET AND PASSPORT... IT WAS ME WHO ASKED GRANDMA FOR HELP AND TOLD SOMEONE TO DELIVER THEM TO YOU...
YOU QUIETLY TOOK THEIR DERISION AND HARSHNESS NEVER COWERING EVEN THOUGH YOU EXPECTED NO RESULTS,
WHAT I SAW WAS YOU TRYING SO HARD TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE CLAN
YOU ALWAYS REMAINED MODEST YET CONFIDENT?
I HAD TO ADAPT TO THEIR WAYS AND LEARNED TO OBSERVE
B-BUT BACK THEN, YOU WERE ONLY NINE YEARS OLD...
YOU DID?! WHAT?!

MOM...
COMPARED TO THOSE PEOPLE WHO DID NOTHING BUT BLAME OTHERS, YOU DID ALL YOU COULD
REALLY
I SHOULD BE THE ONE PROTECTING YOU
YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO EARN THEIR HEARTS, BUT YOU STILL TOUCHED THEM
YOU JUST DIDN'T BELONG THERE, SO STOP BLAMING YOURSELF.
EVEN IF I HAD TO BEAR THOSE RESPONSIBILITIES,
YOU WERE FORCED TO GROW UP, AND SEE THINGS YOU WEREN'T READY FOR...
YOU... SHOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO DEAL WITH ALL THOSE WORRIES AND CONCERNS...

A daughter with a luxury life of a wealthy family
Appropriate, your beauty and cleverness
There are always trying to oppress and other people's envy in order to hurt you...
If you don't look ahead, you'll drown in your own darkness...
I LIVED A GOOD LIFE.
Ah, children...
You're looking straight at me. You've said so much but one word would've been enough already
Just to comfort me, the person who couldn't help you
MY LUCK COULD'VE BEEN A LOT WORSE.
I NEVER FELL SHORT OF ANYTHING.
ALTHOUGH IT WASN'T PERFECT, YOU MADE IT SO THAT I DIDN'T LOSE MY WAY.
The ordinary life I want is not actually ordinary
I just wish to be able to protect you without feeling bitter about it...
So you already possess a heart strong enough to show sympathy, Sheng Ye...
Sheng Ye
MHM...
WAS IT REALLY GOOD?

.....
How much longer?" What's with you? You're so cold!
THIS IS WHEN YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO HUG YOUR MOM AND CONSOLE HER!
SOB IN TEARS
SOB
HOW MUCH LONGER ARE YOU PLANNING ON CRYING?
DON'T TEASE HIM SO MUCH
He's already at his limits by showing such sincerity, this is quite rare!
Transcendence
.....
Great! Now you can show her how much you actually love her!
ALL RIGHT, I GUESS
DO YOU REALLY HAVE TO GO? WON'T YOU STAY HERE A FEW MORE DAYS?
And just like that we ended up spending three cheerful days at Big Sister's house
What's wrong with you?! Are you trying to strangle me?!

ONLY HALF! ARE YOU TRYING TO PRAISE ME OR COMPLAIN?!
YOU RETURNED TO TAIWAN FOR YOUR MOM. YOU'RE JAPANESE-
YOU'RE SO SMART, IT'S BORING. YOUR APPEARANCE IS EXCELLENT AND YOU'RE AN IDOL, TO TOP THINGS OFF YET YOUR PERSONALITY IS BAD.
YOU WANT TO CHANGE BOY-FRIENDS?!
.....
Great people shoulder great responsibility
YOU SPEAK CHINESE SO WELL, AND WITHOUT ACCENT, TOO
AND FRENCH, AS WELL! WHAT ELSE
NO WONDER YOU LIKE MISO SOUP SO MUCH!
IF YOU HADN'T TOLD ME- I WOULD NEVER HAVE REALIZED!
HELLO?
OH MANAGER LIAN, WE'RE ON OUR WAY WE'LL BE THERE SOON
COLLECT THE SONG AND RECORD IT FIRST.
Maybe I'm just overthinking it.

ing Post
Any other car would've been fine, but this one...
for all I care someone just had to pay the trucker in front of my house!
Jeez...
Dislikes black cars
Big Sister~ hi! We'll be able to liv together soon! Sheng Ye's trying to act cool but he's actually been searching for houses so much it's piling up! Still he's trying to make me believe it's just something he does to pass time' hahaha! Lame isn't it?
Xiao Yi's text
Sheng Ye's text
Good day! I'm busy recording, so won't be able to look for a room until I have more free time
Oh, My~ These two really are treasures, each in their own way. One tense and apathetic, the other forthright and energetic.
Transcendence
CLOSE
Ba-thump
Ba-thump
No, that's impossible...
That voice!!
Ja-Japanese?!
THAT PART OF YOU HASN'T CHANGED ONE BIT!
WHENEVER YOU'RE AROUND BLACK CARS, YOU EITHER FROWN OR BECOME VERY WARY.*
*Denotes speech in Japanese

HAS IT REALLY BEEN NINE YEARS...? HOW ARE YOU, LING LING?
Higashi... Higashifushimi Tooru?!
He... Why?! Why would he...

HELLO, MOM? WHAT IS IT?
It's me.
FA- FATHER?! HOW DID YOU...
Sheng Ye!
That ringtone... Mom?
YOU'RE IN TAIWAN?!
It's time you returned. You've been in Taiwan for over a year,
doing nothing but flaunt yourself, and for what purpose?
WHERE'S MOM? ARE YOU AT HER HOUSE?!
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?!
He's speaking Japanese! Who could he be talking to?

You're divorced, for crying out loud!
"DIVORCED?"
WHO TOLD YOU THAT, GRANDMA?
SHE PLACED A NOTE ON THE TABLE AS SHE LEFT OO YOU TRULY BELIEVE I'M THAT EASY TO DISMISS?
YOUR MOTHER NEVER REMOVED HER NAME FROM THE FAMILY REGISTER SO HOW COULD SHE HAVE DIVORCED ME?
!
I'LL LEAVE THE CHOICE WHETHER YOU WISH TO RETURN OR NOT TO YOU.
HE WANTS TO LIVE IN TAIWAN, WITH ME!
YOU LET ME COME TO TAIWAN JUST TO DRAW MOM OUT?!
DID YOU HAVE PEOPLE SPY ON ME?
HOWEVER, IF YOU REMAIN HERE, YOUR MOTHER WILL RETURN TO JAPAN WITH ME
MY HOME IS HERE, SO WHY SHOULD I GO WITH YOU?!
I SIMPLY TOOK MY CHANCES
NOW RETURN TO JAPAN AND DON'T FORGET TO BRING THINGS TO AN END HERE PROPERLY!
REFUSING TO RETURN TO JAPAN MEANS NO DIVORCE!
.....

Let's reunite in Japan...as a family.
BA-THUMP
SHENG YE... WHAT HAPPENED?
"Now... return to Japan, and don't forget to bring things to an end here properly!"
"...bring... things to an end."
THAT SLY FOX! IT'S MY DAD. HE'S HERE IN TAIWAN, AND FOR SOME REASON, WANTS TO BRING MY MOM BACK TO JAPAN.
BECAUSE OF SOME MISUNDERSTANDING, THEY DIDN'T ACTUALLY GET DIVORCED...
WELL, ISN'T THAT ACTUALLY GREAT NEWS?

And just like that, we were caught off-guard by a sudden separation...

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